

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please add the following paragraph at col. 1, line 5:

Applicant claims foreign priority of DE 198 30 575.3 filed July 8, 1998 and PCT/EP99/04660 filed July 5, 1999.

Please amend the paragraph at col. 1, lines 43-49 as follows:

With the help of the valve provided in accordance with the invention which is disposed in the intake channel and which is actuated by a dedicated electric motor, a charge control of an internal combustion engine in a throttle valve free manner is possible such that substantially all thermodynamically favorable charging controls can be achieved through the possible variations of the control of the [rotary disc] valve.

Please amend the paragraph at col. 1, lines 50-54 as follows:

In accordance with another feature of the present invention, the efficiency of the combustion engine, particularly with respect to partial loading, is improved or, respectively, the associated fuel usage is reduced [by the features of claim 2].

Please delete the sentence at col. 1, line 55.

Please amend the paragraph at col. 1, lines 59-67 as follows:

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for controlling the operation of a reciprocating internal combustion engine. Through the special control of the [rotary disc] valve disposed in the intake channel, [it is achieved that the vacuum produced] a reduced pressure can be generated between the [rotary disc] intake channel valve and the intake valve in the [intake channel] cylinder, which reduced pressure creates a pressure wave which reduces the intake

effort of the piston and thus contributes to [a particularly favorable fuel economizing operation] reducing fuel consumption.